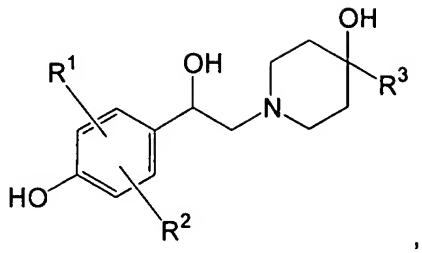
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 and R^2 independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R^3 represents an aryl group having from 6 to 10 ring carbon atoms or a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 10 ring atoms which consists of from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of sulfur atoms, oxygen atoms and nitrogen atoms;

said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 ring carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents α;

said substituents α are selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or alkoxyalkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein

R^1 and R^2 independently represents a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 ~~to 2~~, wherein:

R^3 represents an aryl group having from 6 to 7 ring carbon atoms or a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 10 ring atoms which consists of from 1 to 2 heteroatoms

independently selected from the group consisting of sulfur atoms, oxygen atoms and nitrogen atoms.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 ~~to 2~~, wherein:

R^3 represents a phenyl group, a thiazolyl group, an isothiazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidine group, a quinolyl group, an isoquinollyl group, a tetrahydroquinolyl group, a tetrahydroisoquinolyl group, a chromanyl group or an isochromanyl group.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 ~~to 2~~, wherein:

R^3 represents a phenyl group, a thiazolyl group, a pyridyl group, or an isochromanyl group.

6. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from

1-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-piperidin-4-ol methanesulfonate;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]piperidin-4-ol methanesulfonate;

1-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol methanesulfonate;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-(2-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl] piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(5-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-piperidin-4-ol hydrochloride;

4-(6-Ethoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

4-(6-Fluoro-5-methoxypyridin-2-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol hydrochloride;

1-[2-(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2,5-difluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol; and

1-[2-(2,5-difluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 selected from

1-[2-(3-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol methanesulfonate;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(3-fluorophenyl)piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3,4-Dihydro-1*H*-isochromen-7-yl)-1-[2-(2-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

4-(3-Fluorophenyl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-Hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-piperidin-4-ol hydrochloride;

4-(6-Ethoxypyridin-3-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)ethyl]-piperidin-4-ol;

1-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl]-4-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)piperidin-4-ol; and

4-(6-Fluoro-5-methoxypyridin-2-yl)-1-[2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl) ethyl]piperidin-4-ol;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-~~7~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions caused by over activation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-~~7~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 where the disease condition is selected from stroke or brain injury, chronic neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), epilepsy, convulsive disorder, pain, anxiety, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) related neuronal injury, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, tumor, post-anesthesia cognitive decline (PACD), glaucoma, tinnitus, tradive dyskinesia, allergic encephalomyelitis, opioid tolerance, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of disease conditions caused by over activation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises

administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-~~7~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11 where the disease condition is selected from stroke or brain injury, chronic neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), epilepsy, convulsive disorder, pain, anxiety, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) related neuronal injury, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, tumor, post-anesthesia cognitive decline (PACD), glaucoma, tinnitus, tradive dyskinesia, allergic encephalomyelitis, opioid tolerance, drug abuse and alcohol abuse.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)